

Amendment No. 1

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED	_____	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	_____	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	_____	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	_____	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	_____	(Y/N)
OTHER		

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1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Criminal Justice  
 2 Subcommittee

3 Representative Hart offered the following:

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 5 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

6 Remove lines 31-58 and insert:

7 (1) The pilot program will recruit and enroll inmates that  
 8 have completed certain treatment programs while incarcerated  
 9 into certified peer specialist training programs approved under  
 10 s. 397.417, Florida Statutes; provide core educational training  
 11 and on-the-job work experience during each participant's  
 12 incarceration which meets all of the requirements for peer  
 13 specialist certification; assist with completing the national  
 14 certification exam before each participant's release; and assist  
 15 in placing participants in employment as certified peer  
 16 specialist professionals upon their release.

Amendment No. 1

17       (2) Inmates at participating facilities may apply to  
18 participate in the pilot program. The Department of Corrections  
19 shall develop criteria for selecting qualified applicants for  
20 the pilot program, which may include, but is not limited to,  
21 requiring that participants:

22       (a) Have the appropriate custody classification.

23       (b) Meet certain discipline criteria.

24       (c) Have an expected release date within a specified  
25 timeframe.

26       (d) Be housed at the institution providing training.

27       (e) Have served as a positive role model during their  
28 incarceration.

29       (f) Express a desire to work in the behavioral health  
30 treatment field after release.

31       (g) Not have any convictions for an offense that would  
32 prohibit them from becoming a certified peer specialist.  
33 However, an inmate who has been convicted of murder or a felony  
34 sexual offense as those terms are defined in s. 98.0751(2),  
35 Florida Statutes, or an offense under s. 787.07, Florida  
36 Statutes, relating to kidnapping; s. 806.01, Florida Statutes,  
37 relating to arson; or s. 784.045, Florida Statutes, relating to  
38 aggravated battery may not participate in the program.

39       (3) A person who completes the pilot program's  
40 requirements is exempt from the background screening

Amendment No. 1

41 requirements for peer specialists under s. 397.417, Florida  
42 Statutes.

43 (4) In assisting persons who have completed the pilot  
44 program's requirements with post-incarceration employment, the  
45 pilot program:

46 (a) Shall assist potential employers with acquiring bonds  
47 from the United States Department of Labor's Federal Bonding  
48 Program, if applicable.

49 (b) May offer funding to potential employers to cover the  
50 initial costs of hiring and retaining such persons, dependent  
51 upon the pilot program securing applicable grant funds for such  
52 purpose.

53 (5) After a person who has completed the pilot program's  
54 requirements has been released, he or she must provide each  
55 prospective employer with a copy of his or her incarceration  
56 record before the employer may hire the person. The person must  
57 also receive a signed informed consent form from any potential  
58 client seeking treatment from him or her. Such consent form must  
59 specify that the person has completed the pilot program's  
60 requirements and is certified as a peer specialist under s.  
61 397.417, Florida Statutes.

62 (6) The Department of Corrections shall adopt rules to  
63 implement this act.

64 (7) The pilot program expires June 30, 2026.

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Amendment No. 1

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**T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T**  
Remove lines 5-18 and insert:  
purposes of the pilot program; authorizing inmates at  
participating facilities to apply to participate in  
the pilot program; requiring the department to develop  
criteria for selecting applicants; prohibiting inmates  
who have been convicted of specified offenses from  
participating in the pilot program; exempting persons  
who complete the pilot program's requirements from a  
specified background screening for peer specialists;  
requiring the pilot program to assist potential  
employers with acquiring specified bonds; authorizing  
the pilot program to offer funding to potential  
employers to cover specified costs under certain  
circumstances; requiring persons who have completed  
the program to provide prospective employers with  
incarceration records; requiring such person to  
receive a signed informed consent form from any  
potential clients; specifying requirements for the  
consent form; requiring the department to adopt rules;  
providing for the expiration of the pilot program;  
providing an effective